Treason and Murther DISCOVERED.

Being a True and Perfect

RELATION

OF THE

Tryal & Condemnation

OF

James Alsop the Father, and *William Alsop* his Son for *Treason* and *Murder*;

At the Assises held at *Chelmsford* for the County of *Essex*, on Wednesday the 25*th* of *March*, 1674.

ALSO

The wonderfull Discovery both of the *Treason* and *Murder*; with the Sentence of the Court for the manner and places of their Execution.

Written by a Person who was present at the Tryal.

LONDON,
Printed in the Year, 167[illegible]

Treason and Murder
DISCOVERED.

Being a True and Perfect

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Trial & Condemnation

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James Allop the Father, and Wil-
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and Murder;

At the Assizes held at Chelmsford for the County of Essex,
on Wednesday the 25th of March, 1685.

ALSO

The wonderful Discovery both of the Treason and Murder, with
the Sentence of the Court for the manner and place of
their Execution.

Written by a Person who was present at the Trial.

LONDON:
Printed in the Year, 16

Treason and *Murder* Discovered, &c.

UPon *Wednesday, March* the 25th, 1674. The Court being sate, *William Allsop* alias *Thomas Topham*, was called to the Barr, and Two Indictments read against him; The One of *Treason* for Clipping of Money; The other for *Murther*. That of Treason to this Effect, *That he the said* William Allsop *alias* Thomas Topham, *and* James Allsop *senior, and Others, of* West-Ham *in the County of* Essex, *had Traiterously and Feloniously against the Peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity, with certain Iron Instruments, Sheers, Scissers, and other Tools then and there found, Clipped Filed, and Diminished the Kings Coyn, viz. Fourty pieces of Silver, each of them of the value of* 12 *d. commonly called Queen* Elizabeths *Shillings, and Clipped from off them silver to the value of three pence; Forty other pieces of Silver commonly called King* James *his Shillings, and Clipped off silver to the value of three pence; Forty pieces of Silver called King* Charles *the First his Shillings, and clipped off from them silver to the value of three pence; And Twenty other pieces of Money, called King* Charles the First *his half Crowns, and clipped silver from each of them to the value of Eight pence, &c.* (according to the usual Form of Indictments.)

To these Two Indictments *William Allsop* pleaded Guilty, and seemed to Excuse the rest, *viz.* his Father, Mother, and Brother.

William Allsop being set by, *James Allsop* the Elder, and *Dorothy Allsop* the Wife of *James Allsop* the Elder, and *James Allsop junior*, was called to the Barr, and the Indictments to the same effect with the former was read; to which they pleaded *Not Guilty*, and submitted themselves to their Tryal *by God and the Country*: Upon which, the several Witnesses

was called and ſworn; *viz.* Firſt the Bell-Man, Two Conſtables of *Weſt-Ham*, and ſeveral others. The Conſtables and Bell Man gave in their Evidence thus; The Bell-man declared, That upon the *Tueſday* morning, the time that the Murther was committed, he paſſed by the houſe of *James Alſop* ſenior, and gave him the uſual Salute, and the time of the Night, and was anſwered again by the ſaid *James Alſop*, and that he ſaw no light in the houſe, neither did he hear the dogs bark as they uſe to do oftentimes to his Affrightment; which dogs, as he was afterwards informed, were ſhut up in the Barn; and, as it was ſuppoſed, to prevent any diſturbance by their noiſe, to their intended bloody deſign. In the morning, the Murther being noiſed about, ſeveral people, as well Officers as others, flocked to the houſe to enquire about it; amongſt which, he enquired of *James Alſop* ſenior, and his Wife, about the Murther; they both told him, That they had been robbed that night, and the perſons that rob'd them, had done the Murther; But the Officers was not ſufficiently ſatisfied with their anſwer, but made a farther ſearch into the houſe, and found a Cheſt in the Chamber, where the Murther was committed, empty; which they ſaid was their Daughters Cheſt, wherein was Plate and wearing Cloathes; but ſearching their Chamber, they found the Cloathes which they pretended to be ſtole; and alſo found in their Daughters Chamber a Silver Spoon, and a Silver Cup ſtanding by the Bed; ſo that if Robbery was the intention, they would have taken away thoſe things.

Next, the Conſtable agrees in a great part of the Evidence of the Bell-Man, but gives this farther, That when he was about to carry *James Alſop* before a Juſtice of the Peace, he deſired to go into his houſe, pretending to make faſt his Dores; which the Conſtable granted; but he would have gone into his Chamber by himſelf, which the Conſtable would not agree to; Then he deſired that he onely would go along with him; which he did, and being alone, he pulled

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out of his Breeches a Bundle tyed up in Leather, in which was several Clippings of Money. He tells the Constable, That this Bundle he found last Night coming home between *Mile End*, and *Bow*, and knowing, that upon this unhappy Accident (as he called it) these things being found about him, it might do him a great prejudice, he would therefore give him Ten pounds if he would conceal these Clippings; but the Constable told him, he dar'd not do it, and brought him out to the Company, and shewed what he found about him: Upon this they make narrower search, and find in a Chamber where Woall used to be laid up, in the Wooll was hid several Sheers, and a Whetstone with several furrows in it, supposed to be for the smoothing of the money after it was clipped. (*Here the Sheers, Scissers, and other Tools, and Whetstone, with the Clippings bound up in Leather, were shewn in Court, and handled and viewed by the Judge, and most of the Jury.*) That when they first heard of these Clippings found, they went to the house, and searched narrowly the parts of the same, in order to make further discovery; and in a Window in one of the Chambers, they found Clippings and Filings, and the Impression of the Tooles, and spyed in a Crevice something glyster, upon which they took up the boards, and there found hanging in the Cobwebs several small Clippings and filings of Silver, some of which he shewed in Court

The next Evidence was the other Constable, which was much to the same effect with his Partners, and agreed in the same Circumstances.

Then there was called one that had been a Servant in his house, and lived so near to the Chamber where they were supposed to Clip, that he and his Wife often heard a *Tinckling Noise*; He declares, That he never saw any thing of their Clipping, but his Wife and he had often been discoursing about the *Noise* they heard, and she told her husband, That when she lived in *Yorkshire*, she lived next to a house where she heard such *Noises* in the Night, and that afterwards there

was a Discovery made of clipping of mony; and she wished this might not prove so. He declared also that he had taken several times Clipped many of him for wages, and thought sometimes it looked as if it was but new done; Whereupon he once said to his Master, when they were drinking together, *Master, I doe not like this Tink-a-tink-tink we often hear in your Chamber, pray God you be True*; Upon which he was very inquisitive to know what he meant by the *Tink-a-tink-tink*; he told him, he would say no more. A while after *James Allsop* arrested this Servant in a vexatious suit, but could him if he would talke no more of *Tink-a-tink-tink*, he would release him; And that after he was apprehended, and the Clippings discovered, he told *James Allsop*, *That now was come to pass what he long feared and expected.* And Afterwards when he visited his Master in the Gaol, He told him, *That if he had bin worthy to know of his Observations and suspicions of him before, he would have given him two or three hundred pound to have Concealed what he observed.*

Next was called and sworn a Gold-smith, that bought the melted silver of this *James Allsop*, he declared that about two years, or two years & half since, this *James Allsop* came to his shop, and shewed him some burnt Silver, and asked him what he would allow him, an ounce for it; And told him that a Friend of his, had a house burnt down in *York-shire*, and that all his plate and mony was melted and burnt in the fire; and could him, if he would give him as much as it was worth, he could help him to more; for as fast as they found it, and got it out of the ruins, it would be sent to him; the Gold smith allowed him *four Shillings Ten pence* an ounce, and bought at that time about *four pound weight* of him; and said, that this *James Allsop* could to him about four or five times afterwards, of melted silver about *three or four pound weight* at a time; and that he ordered letters to be left for him at his shop, and shewed him some subscribed by one *Nich. Campion*, who was pretended to be the Person that sent this silver out of *York-shire*; the Gold-smith produced some part of the silver and shewed it in Court.

Then *Allsop* was called and asked what he had to say for himself, he made a long, tedious, and impertinent discourse

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in his defence, endeavouring to lay't all upon his Son *William*, that had Confeſſed, and brought a Boy or two that lived in his houſe to ſay, That the *Tinking noiſe* in his houſe was pointing of Nails to hang Leather on, and ſeveral other idle excuſes he made.

Then *Dorothy Allſop* was called, the evidence againſt her for this Indictment was onely, That ſhe had bin with her husband at the Gold-ſmiths.

James Allſop Junior was called, and little could be faſtened upon him by the evidence.

Then the ſecond Indictment was read againſt *Jeames Allſop junior* for Clipping, and there was Produced in Court a Portmantle, in which was clippings, and Sheeres, and other Inſtruments, with ſome letters ſubſcribed by *Nich. Campion*, which was after found to be done and Contrived by *James Allſop Junior*, and *William Allſop* who perſonated this *Nich. Campion*, ſometimes went for his man: This was found in an Ale-houſe in *Moore-fields*, where a perſon that went by the name of *Campion* lodged, and this Portmantle was brought thither by this young *Allſop*, who went there as *Campions* man; There was ſeverall Circumſtances to prove this Portmantle to be made in young *Allſops* houſe, and that they there contrived it, and carried it from thence to *Moor-fields*, but nothing poſitively could be proved.

Then there was read the Indictment of *Murder* againſt *James Allſop*, the Elder, and *Dorothy Allſop*, his Wife; the evidence was firſt by the Coroner, who ſaid, That when he had viewed the body, and had examined *Allſop* and his wife, who tould him, That their houſe had bin Robbed, and the Theeves had murdered their daughter in bed; the Coroner demanded of them which way the thieves came in, they tould him, That they came in at ſuch a window, The Coroner went into the yard, and viewed the place, and found the glaſe lying behind a hedge, and as Carefully ſet as any Glaſier could ſet it; there being no part broken: he could likewiſe diſcover no foot-ſteps either in the graſs, which was

wiſe

high, or print of any foot or toe in the wall, by which they should ascend to the window: And viewing the window, they found it full of Cobwebs, which went Cross it, and not a part above the breath of a hand broke in them, so that it was impossible for any person to come in there, the Cobwebs remaining whole.

A little Child was then brought, which was the daughter of the young woman that was murdered; she said, that she saw some body go out of the chamber in the night without any light, she thought, about the height of her Grandmother; and that she found her self wet in bed, but knew not what was the reason of it; but in the morning she went and told her Grandfather, *That her Mother was killed*; who answered, *God forbid*; and that was all she could declare.

The next was the Surgeons Evidence, who declared, That hearing of the Murther, he came to the house, and viewed the Wound, and came down and found Mris. *Alsop* smoaking a Pipe of Tobacco by the fire; he asked her, Who did the Murther? She answered, *The Lord knows*. He enquired for her husband, She told him he was gone out just before he came in. The Surgeon went after him, and over-took him about a Bow shot from his house, and told him he must know something of this Murther; and (the Constable being by) he charged *Alsop* with the Suspition of this Murther.

Then a Person of Quality declared, That he went to view the place, and found it according to the Coroners Evidence; and that there was shewn to him a Vizard Mask found in *Alsops* Trunk, having a drop of a Candle newly done, on the out-side, and on the inside a spot of blood, like the print of a Thumb; and that when he caused *Alsops* Sleeve to be turn'd up, and found a Spot of blood upon his shirt, which *Alsop* said, was caused by bringing home some Meat the Night before; and on Mrs. *Alsops* Neck-cloth there was a spot of blood, which she said, was an Iron-mould, but a Bason of Water being brought to try it, the blood washed clear out, which no Iron-mould would. Other Circumstances was proved against Old *Alsop*, as that he was observed in the morning when he rose to have black Breeches on; and that afterwards he had changed them, and put on other Clothes. To this Evidence, *Alsop* answered, That his Son *William* had been a Treacherous Son, and had done this to destroy him; and talked a great deal, but nothing to any purpose. The Wife likewise denyed that she knew any thing of the Murther. Upon which the Jury went out, and returned with this Verdict: *That Old* Alsop *was guilty of Clipping, and the Murther; and the Wife and* James Alsop *Junior, not guilty*. William Alsop *was guilty by his own Confession.*

William Alsop received Sentence to be drawn upon a Sledge from the Gaol in *Chelmsford*, to the place of Execution, and there to be hanged by the Neck till his Body be dead. Old *Alsop* to be conveyed to *Stratford* Gaol, and to be drawn upon a Sledge from the same Gaol, to the place of Execution, which shall be before his own house in *West-Ham*; where he is to be hanged upon a Gibbet by the Neck, till his Body be dead.

FINIS.